Shifting of functional head of marketing division of FCI

828. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of functional head of the marketing division of the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) was operating from Calcutta since inception;

(b) whether the same was operating even after division of FCI as the office of the functional head of marketing division of HFC since formation, of HFC in 1978; and

(c) when the same was shifted to Delhi and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No Sir. The office of the Zonal Manager (Marketing) Eastern Zone, of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. was located in Calcutta till 1978.

(b) and (c) The office of General Manager (Marketing) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), which operated from Calcutta on formation of HFC in 1978, was shifted to New Delhi in 1989 in the interest of effective control and coordination. In addition to the sales functions, the marketing office also interfaces with various agencies, including the Departments/Ministries of the Government of ensure effective supply and distribution of fertilizers.

Settlement of claims of Bhopal gas victims

829. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status/progress of settlement of compensation to those affected by Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) the total number of claims received, processed, settled and compensation paid so far;

(c) the reasons for delay in settlement of compensation; and

(d) the details of review undertaken and steps taken/proposed to clear pendency of cases and detect bogus claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) According to the information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, out of 6 lakh claims received, about 4 lakh claims have been decided as on 31.10.1996. The compensation awarded amounts to Rs. 898 crores of which Rs. 854 crores has been paid upto 31.10.1996. The reasons for delay in settlement of compensation claims are non-availability of required number of judicial officers from the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, non-appearance of medical officers for giving evidence and claimants not turning up for adjudication despite of issue of notices by registered post/publication in the Press. The disposal of claim cases by the Courts are reviewed by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the High Court. The disposal is also monitored regularly by the Government. The office of Welfare Commissioner has informed that due care is being taken in the adjudication of the compensation claim cases in accordance with the judicial process. More than 5000 duplicate claims involving an amount of Rs. 1.25 crores have been detected and payment in such cases has been stopped and Rs. 5 lakhs have been got refunded.

चीनी मिलों से निकले अपशिष्टों का खाद के रूप में इस्तेमाल

830. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि चीनी मिलों/पेराई यंत्रों से निकले अपशिष्टों का खेतों में खाद के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या चीनी मिलों/पेराई यंत्रों से निकले अपशिष्टों को उस क्षेत्र के किसानों को उचित मूल्य पर दिया जाता है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र) : (क) जी हां। (ख) और (ग) यह एक औद्योगिकीय अपशिष्ट है तथा इसका उपयोग खाद के रूप में किया जाता है। चूंकि यह

अनियमित क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आता है इसलिए इसके मूल्य को मॉनिटर नहीं किया जा रहा है।

Decline in the use of Fertilizers

831. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: Will the Ministe of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of fertilizer has declined, if so, the total consumption during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and so far in 1996;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the use of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The total consumption of fertilizer nutrients during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and the estimated consumption during Kharif 1996 (April-September, 1996) is given below:

Year	(Lakh tonnes N+P+K)
1993-94	123.66
1994-95	135.64
1995-96	138.77
Kharif, 1996 (Estt)	73.39

(c) The following steps are being taken to increase the use of fertilizers:

(i) Concession of Rs. 3000 per tonne on indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Rs. 1500 per tonne each of Muriate of Potash and imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate, proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 500 per tonne on Single Super Phosphate (SSP) is being given with effect from 6.7.1996;

(ii) sale of fertilizers to farmers in small bags;

(iii) free foil testing service to farmers;

(iv) a scheme on balanced use of fertilizers is being implemented which is expected to help in generating demand and promoting balanced use of fertilizers; and

(v) a scheme on Bio-fertilizer production and promotion is being implemented. This is expected to help in supply and use of organic forms of plant nutrients.

Rail freight concession for North-East region

832. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6% freight concession on traffic to North-East region is granted for goods traffic booked to and from stations located in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Manipur is not included in this freight concession; and

(c) who will reimburse the loss suffered by the railways as a result of freight concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Manipur is also included in the Scheme of 6% freight concession.

(c) the proposal to refer the issue to the Railway Convention Committee is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

Commissioning of Konkan railway line

833. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of commissioning of the Konkan railway line for passenger traffic;

(b) the extent of delay considering the original target and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the modus-operandi for the running of trains and/or who would be the final authority for the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Passenger services on the Konkan Railway have already commenced upto Ratnagiri from Mumbai side and upto Kundapura from Mangalore side. However, through passenger services are likely to be started by April 1997.

(b) Commissioning of the project has been delayed by 18 months due to stoppage of work in Goa route owing to public agitation and unforseen geological problems in soft soil tunnels.

(c) The train services would be opearted by the Konkan Railway Corpn. Ltd.